Washington State Department of Transportation

NEWS

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I-90 design process wins national recognition

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has selected the *"I-90 Collector-Distributor System, of the US 395 North Spokane Corridor"* to receive the 2003 AASHTO Value Engineering Award for *"Most Innovative Proposal in Process Improvement"*. The award is being given to the Washington State Department of Transportation North Spokane Corridor team in Spokane that is responsible for the design of this project.

Competition for these awards was substantial. AASHTO received 40 outstanding applications from 11 different states and Canada. Four judges, members of the AASHTO Value Engineering Task force, evaluated each application.

Evaluation criteria for the Most Innovative Proposal included the Use Of New Technology, Use Of Creative Thinking, Degree Final Project Differs From the Original Design, and Improved Safety and/or Constructability

The challenges of this project required a more innovative approach in the design process. The project office team was challenged to create a process that provided for input from a wide variety of citizens, interest groups, and government representatives.

A unique Value Engineering (VE) process was developed to study the North Spokane Corridor (NSC) Project along I-90 from the vicinity of Liberty Park to Sprague Avenue and the associated collector-distributor system over a 24 month period. Because of the complexity of the project and the number of groups involved, (Federal, State, City, County, Businesses and Community), two distinct public input processes were used to balance the goals of an efficient transportation system and the concerns of the community folded into one plan.

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The first process was the formation of a Design Advisory Group (DAG). This Design Advisory Group provided an innovative method of soliciting input from various technical and non-technical sources and was used over an extended period at key points during the development of the conceptual design alternatives in a concerted effort to stay aligned with the desires of the public and jurisdictional stakeholders.

The second process consisted of the team who developed the various design and access options for the VE process based on suggestions and comments gathered from the Design Advisory Group and public meetings. The team worked on the project over a 24-month period, to improve the alignments, address neighborhood and agency concerns, and investigate design and access alternatives.

These design efforts on the I-90 Collector-Distributor facility are an integral part of the overall North Spokane Corridor project. Construction work will continue on the NSC with another contract getting underway in the north portion of the facility in late 2003.

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